

## **Additional Information**

The hospital that a veteran is admitted to can be influenced by a number of factors. For planned admissions, the veteran chooses the hospital they wish to go to, in consultation with their treating doctor. The choice would be limited to hospitals that are seen as the most appropriate for the treating services being sought by the treating doctor, where that doctor had visiting rights. It is also limited by the capacity of the hospital to provide appropriate care/services for the patient's particular needs. As an example, the LGH is the only hospital in Launceston with an Intensive Care Unit. For this reason, the more complex cases, both surgical and medical, would tend to go to the LGH.

While veterans, in consultation with their treating doctor, have the choice to be admitted to LGH for any form of treatment/surgery, for lower acuity surgery there are often longer waiting times at the LGH, than there are for admission to the private hospitals. For some categories of surgery, the waiting times at the LGH can be 12 months or more. For this reason, many veterans, in consultation with their treating doctor, choose to go to one of the private hospitals, where that hospital can cater for their needs.

LGH is the only hospital in Launceston with an Accident and Emergency (A&E) department. Where veterans require admission, after presenting to the A&E department, the decision to admit is dependent on the availability of accommodation within LGH. There have been occasions when patients have been transferred after assessment from A&E to one of the private hospitals.

Note: The ratio of private (St. Vincent's and St Luke's Hospital) and public (LGH) hospital utilisation by eligible veterans for 2003/04, was approximately 50/50.